year mainly for the requirements of the pay and isolation wards under construction, the provision made for sending a senior female Sub-Assistant Surgeon for higher studies in England and the opening of more rural dispensaries. I had referred to in detail last year how arrears came to accrue under 'Cost of medicines' and how the liabilities came to be carried over from year to year. A sum of Rs. 20.000 was provided in the current year for part payment of the liabilities, and it is proposed to wipe off the liabilities in the coming year by making a provision of Rs. 25,000 towards the same under 'Cost of medicines.' Under 'Temporary Establishment' provision has been made for the entertainment of 8 additional nurses, 6 ward attendants and 6 thotties mainly in view of the fact that the pay wards and isolation wards which are now in the course of construction, are expected to be ready for use next year. Besides the stipendiary at Madras now receiving Rs. 600 per annum, a senior female Sub Assistant Surgeon is proposed to be sent to England for higher medical studies with a scholarship of £ 200 per annum and the cost of passage is to be borne by the Government. The total expenditure is thus expected to come to Rs. 3,600. Provision has also been made for opening two more rural dispensaries.

Sanitation and Conservancy.—The budget estimate under 'Sanitation and Conservancy' which is fixed at Rs. 44,800 is conspicuous this year by the absence of any provision as 'Contribution to Municipal Councils.' It has been more than once made clear to this House that it was the firm conviction of the Government that the Municipalities, having passed the infant stage when active help and guidance of the Government were necessary, should be able to stand on their own legs. An experiment is made in this direction this year by the withdrawal of the usual contribution. During the current year a scheme for the improvement of the Ernakulam Town, which has great possibilities before it with the development of the Cochin Harbour, but which is still very backward in the amenities of an improved town, has been drawn up by Dr. Dann—the Town Expert. The scheme is under the consideration of the Goverament. Meanwhile an increased provision of Rs. 7,000 has been made for the Ernakulam Town Improvement works in 1104 under State General—Sanitation.

I cannot close this section without referring to the sad inroad of plague into the very heart of the State. It is not possible to state with any degree of exactitude what expenditure we will have to incur under 'Prevention of Epidemics' to combat this fell disease. When the preliminary edition of the budget was

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being prepared, we had no inkling of it, hence the usual provision of Rs. 600 only was made then. I am sure that the House will not grudge to sanction any additional allotments that we may stand in need of towards the measures we are taking for the eradication of this scourge. Hence I leave the amount as it stands.

Stationery and Printing.—require no explanation from me except perhaps in the case of the larger provision made for purchase of stationery articles. Under 'Stationery' the budget estimate is fixed at Rs. 60,000 as against the revised estimate of Rs. 45,750, the increase being mainly due to the larger quantity of paper to be purchased to meet the growing demands for printing paper and of writing paper for offices and to the higher contract rates of 1104.

Military.—As against the revised estimate of Rs. 94,600 the budget estimate for 1104 is fixed at Rs. 1,04,500, thus exceeding the former by Rs. 9,900 mainly on account of the provision of Rs. 4,000 made under 'Miscellaneous' for the purchase of horses with the consequent increase in the cost of feeding provided for and also due to the fact that provision has been made for the full sanctioned force.

Public Works Department.—For the next year we are budgetting for an expenditure of Rs. 14,30,800 as against the revised estimate of Rs. 12,65,000. Of the total allotment a sum of Rs. 2,66,379 is to go to 'Mechanical Engineering' and the balance of Rs. 11,64,416 is reserved for 'Civil Engineering.' 'Communications' consume Rs. 3,96,157 out of the total allotment, there being some important original works of communication which are either continuation of the old schemes or entirely new ones. 'Buildings' take up a provision of Rs. 3,95,061 from the allotment of which a large part is for the construction of palaces. The only other important building works proposed for the next year are the Leper Asylum buildings at Adur, Improvements to Hospitals, etc. After the cut passed in the Council the allotment for the construction of the Pay Ward was Rs. 20,000 only in the current year while the sanctioned estimate comes to Rs. 25,500. Of this, the expenditure in the current year is estimated at Rs. 15,000 and the balance of Rs. 10,500 is provided next year. Under 'Irrigation' we have made a lump provision of Rs. 1,00,000 for the coming year for being spent on such schemes as may seem useful as a result of the investigation now going on. Under 'Mechanical and Electrical Engineering' important additions are proposed for the various items of repairs and renewals for the water works systems at Chowwara, Mattancheri and Nemmara.

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